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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Altamirano ORIGINAL DATE 3-07-2007 HB _____
LAST UPDATED 3-14-2007

SHORT TITLE Reinstate State Supervisor of Spanish SJM 40/aSRC

ANALYST Dearing

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$77.2.	\$77.2.	\$154.4	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The amendment proposed by the Senate Rules Committee changes the language of the original Joint Memorial, and now reads:

That the Governor and the Public Education Department be requested *to name the Director of Bilingual Education or the Director's designee as the State Supervisor of Spanish.*

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 40 resolves to reinstate the position of New Mexico state supervisor of Spanish.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Joint Memorial 40 carries no appropriation. If enacted, the PED estimates the legislation would create \$77.4 thousand additional annual budgetary impact to support the position.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has been a leader in the nation in recognizing the academic, economic and social value of being bilingual. Since 1973, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act has provided

financial support for programs that allow students to become proficient in two languages, English and a second language (one of which could be the Spanish language).

According to the historical records available from Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB), the following initiatives were implemented since the inception the State Supervisor of Spanish position up to 2007:

- Senate Bill 129 of 1943 established a position of Supervisor of Spanish in the New Mexico Department of Education to ensure the teaching of Spanish in the elementary schools. From 1944 to 1963, it was mandatory to teach Spanish in the elementary grades to all students.
- In 1963, the law mandating the teaching of Spanish in the elementary schools was repealed but a new emphasis in Bilingual Education was beginning to appear.
- In September 8, 1967, the State Board of Education adopted a Policy Statement endorsing Bilingual Education and establishing a division of Bilingual Education in the State Department of Education.
- After 1967 the previous positions were reclassified and expanded with emphasis in Bilingual Multicultural Education, which included experts in Home Language (Spanish and Native American), English and Media.
- Since 1967 until current the time (2007), the structure of the BMEB has undergone changes in the titles of the personnel. However, there is a requirement that the educational consultants and the director be experts in Bilingual Multicultural Education and proficient in English and Spanish or Native American Language.

PD/csd